

**CASCADE RESERVOIR  
CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENT**  
2011 Annual Operating Instructions  
Cascade Ranger District  
Boise National Forest

**INTRODUCTION**

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on the Cascade Reservoir Cattle and Horse allotment during the 2011 grazing season.

<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Permit Number</b>
Cascade Reservoir C&H	Frank Phillips	01132

<b>Permitted Use</b>				
<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Allotment</b>	<b>No. of Livestock</b>	<b>Livestock Class</b>	<b>Permitted Season</b>
Phillips	Cascade Reservoir C&H	76	Cow/Calf	6/15 – 9/15
Phillips	Cascade Reservoir C&H	46	Cow/Calf	6/15 – 9/15

<b>Authorized Use</b>				
<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Allotment</b>	<b>No. of Livestock</b>	<b>Livestock Class</b>	<b>Authorized Season</b>
Phillips	Cascade Reservoir C&H	76	Cow/Calf	7/15 – 10/15
Phillips	Cascade Reservoir C&H	210	Cow/Calf	6/20 – 6/30
Phillips	Cascade Reservoir C&H	210	Cow/Calf	7/6 – 7/15

<b>Non-Use</b>				
<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Allotment</b>	<b>No. of Livestock</b>	<b>Resource Protection</b>	<b>Personal Convenience</b>
Phillips	Cascade Reservoir C&H			
Phillips	Cascade Reservoir C&H			

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Frank Phillips

7P – Left Ribs

Phillips sons (Up to 50 percent of the permitted cattle are allowed to carry this brand) (61 cattle)

II7 – Left Hip

**COMPLIANCE**

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season that requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist or the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

All hay, straw and mulch products used on the Boise National Forest must be certified as weed-free or weed/seed-free by a qualified inspector of the State of Idaho or neighboring states which have weed-free feed or crop certification programs (Region Special Order Number: 04-00-097).

## **PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS**

1. Actual Use – 2010
  - a. Cascade Reservoir South C&H
    - (1) Numbers – 210 cattle
    - (2) Season – 6/17 – 6/30
    - (3) Actual Use – 96 animal months
  - b. Cascade Reservoir North C&H
    - (1) Numbers – 80 cattle
    - (2) Season – 7/15 – 10/15
    - (3) Actual Use – 245 animal months
2. Grazing Rotations – 2010
  - a. Cascade Reservoir South C&H
    - (1) Campbell Creek Unit – Graze
    - (2) Hazard Creek Unit – Rest
  - b. Cascade Reservoir North C&H
    - (1) Deer Creek South Unit – Graze First
    - (2) Deer Creek North Unit – Graze Second
    - (3) Silver Creek Unit – Graze Third
    - (4) Van Wyck Unit – Graze Fourth
    - (5) Hurd Creek Unit – Graze Fifth
3. There was some cattle drift from the Indian Mountain C&H allotment into the Cascade Reservoir C&H allotment, but not near as much as previous years.

## **2011 GRAZING SCHEDULE**

Cascade Reservoir C&H Allotment (South)

<u>Cattle Numbers</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Pasture</u>
210	6/20 – 6/30	Hazard Creek Unit
210	7/6 – 7/15	Campbell Creek Unit

Cascade Reservoir C&H Allotment (North)

<u>Cattle Numbers</u>	<u>Grazing Rotation</u>	<u>Pasture</u>
76	Graze First	Deer Creek North Unit
76	Graze Second	Deer Creek South Unit
76	Graze Third	Silver Creek Unit
76	Graze Fourth	Hurd Creek Unit
0	Rest Pasture	Van Wyck Unit

The Cattle will enter the Deer Creek North Unit of the Cascade Reservoir C&H Allotment (North) on July 15 in 2011.

Cattle will be removed from a pasture when allowable use of 45 percent in the riparian areas is reached; or when 4-inch stubble height of hydric species is retained; or when allowable use of 50 percent in the nonriparian areas is reached. Cattle movement or drift back into a previously grazed pasture will not be allowed as it is very important to allow for vegetative regrowth to occur.

The cattle grazing the Hazard Creek Unit and the Campbell Creek Unit will be trailed to and from the private land adjacent to the allotment. The cattle grazing the north units will be trucked and unloaded with a portable chute into the Deer Creek North Unit and will be trailed off of the allotment to the private land in the fall.

## **BILLING**

The grazing fee for the 2011 grazing season is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

We are required to use the Lock Box system. Send your grazing fees to the address specified on your grazing bill. We cannot accept payments at the District or Forest Supervisor's Office. Allow adequate time for your payment to be received, processed and for the Ranger District Office to receive payment notification. A minimum of 5 days should be allowed for this process. Livestock may not be placed on the allotment until after the District Ranger has received notification that the grazing fees have been paid. Placing or allowing livestock onto National Forest System lands prior to payment of grazing fees is violation of your term grazing permit and may result in the assessment of unauthorized use fees and the suspension or cancellation of your permit.

If permitted livestock are required to leave the allotment early due to excess utilization or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a refund may be requested. A written request for refund must be submitted to the District Ranger if this situation occurs.

## **LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**

The Cascade Reservoir C&H allotment will be managed as described in this AOI and the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest (Forest Plan).

Compliance with the following standards will be emphasized; this is imperative. Familiarize yourself with this AOI and Forest Management direction. If you need more information about allotment management, contact the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist or the Cascade District Ranger.

The North Zone Range Specialist or Technician must be notified at least 5 days in advance and given the date, time, and place where livestock will enter the allotment to allow for counting livestock on the allotment.

**Range Readiness:** Spring moisture and temperature conditions may affect the time when livestock are allowed to turn out on the allotments. The Forest Service will notify you at least 2 weeks in advance of your scheduled turnout date if this occurs.

**Utilization:** It is the responsibility of the permittee to periodically monitor and document utilization during the grazing season. If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, livestock will be removed from the allotment early. The Forest Service will conduct end-of-season monitoring to determine if grazing use standards have been met.

Stream bank utilization will be measured along the “green line” in riparian areas and should not exceed the Forest Plan standard of no more than 45 percent in riparian areas. In the flats or meadows adjoining these riparian areas and/or upland areas, we will adhere to the Forest Plan Standard of no more than 50 percent utilization for these areas.

Upland grazing use should not exceed the Forest Plan standard of no more than 50 percent end-of-season use on upland areas. The Forest Service will periodically check the permittee’s utilization monitoring to ensure good land stewardship and perform documentation. At times, the permittees and the Forest Service will jointly inspect range conditions. It is your responsibility to remove livestock from the allotment area as soon as the utilization standard (50 percent) has been met.

**Noxious Weeds:** Work on noxious weed control will continue this year. These weeds are a continual, and in some places, an increasing problem. Your help is needed. If you find any populations of noxious weeds, please let the Cascade Ranger District know so arrangements can be made to start work on their control.

**Salt Placement:** Due to the small pasture size, salting will be the primary tool for achieving good livestock distribution. Salt will be placed in containers and moved occasionally during allotment use to discourage concentrations of cattle for a long period of time. Salt will be removed from the allotment when the livestock have completed grazing the unit. Salt will not be allowed in riparian conservation areas and placed away from any streams, riparian areas or shoreline fence. Salting will be done where low use is observed. Historic salting locations will be avoided during the grazing season. There will be no salting within one-quarter mile water and 100 feet from roads where possible.

**Predator Problems:** If during the grazing season, you are having problems with predators notify, Wildlife Services. Through a memorandum of Understanding between Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Forest Service, Wildlife Services is responsible for the control of predators. They will provide control services, technical expertise, recommendation of control methods, and reporting livestock as well as predator losses to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Forest Service. You are allowed to protect your livestock from the immediate threat of predators. All other predator control must be conducted through the proper channels, as described above.

**Wolves:** Questions about what can or cannot be done in reference to defending livestock, harassing wolves, or shooting wolves should be directed to Todd Grimm, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Boise, Idaho (208 378-5077); or local Wildlife Services contacts. Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is responsible for wolf management in Idaho. The wolf coordinator for USFWS is Hilary Cooley. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be directed to her and she can be reached at (208-685-6963).

**Motorized Use:** The Forest Service’s Motor Vehicle Use Travel Management Rule is in place on the Cascade Ranger District, which prohibits off-road travel. Public motorized, wheeled vehicle use is

prohibited on all NFS lands except on routes that are designated on the current year's Motorized Vehicle Use Map. This AOI authorizes you and your employees to use wheeled motor vehicles on other system routes for administrative use within your allotments for livestock management purposes. This administrative use includes salting and herding of livestock, maintenance of range improvements, and forage utilization inspections. Use of heavy equipment, such as bulldozers or backhoes is **not** included in this authorization. Use of heavy equipment will need to be requested through and approved by the District Ranger on a case-by-case basis.

### **RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

All range improvements listed and assigned to you in the term grazing permit must be maintained to a good functioning condition before livestock enter the pasture.

The permanent electric fence will be maintained along the shoreline of Lake Cascade to provide a minimum 50-foot buffer strip of unused vegetation from the high waterline of the reservoir and to exclude livestock access. The permanent electric fence will be operational and functioning before livestock entry occurs. The fence will be let down at the end of the grazing season.

### **FENCE CONSTRUCTION**

Temporary electric fence will be constructed on both sides of the lower section of Silver Creek to exclude cattle use on this section of the stream.

### **WATER DEVELOPMENTS**

All livestock water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife.

### **ALLOTMENT MONITORING**

The proposed monitoring on the allotment for the 2011 grazing season will be as follows:

1. Inspection compliance monitoring
2. Utilization monitoring
3. In-season stubble height monitoring
4. End-of-season stubble height monitoring
5. Grazing Response Index (GRI)

Close monitoring of utilization levels and diligent removal of livestock when they are reached is critical to ensure compliance with end-of-season utilization standards. Failure to meet these standards may result in the modification of grazing management following the adaptive management strategy.

Permittee monitoring of utilization levels is not mandatory, but is highly advised since the permittees will be held accountable to meet end-of-season compliance monitoring.

### **COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

1. In cooperation with the State of Idaho, all feed, hay or straw brought to the allotment must be certified weed-free.

2. Report any known invasive plants in your grazing areas.
3. Report areas you have accidentally over-used so the Forest Service is aware of a critical situation before an unhappy public makes us aware of it. This will keep the Forest Service up to date and provide the opportunity to resolve the problem as necessary. In addition, it will reflect more positively on you as a good land manager.
4. It is recommended that the permittees use GPS units to record the location of each utilization monitoring site they inspect during the grazing season.

## **REQUIRED REPORTING**

Enclosed are year end grazing reports for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2011 grazing season for the Cascade Reservoir C&H allotment. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto each allotment, the number and date cattle are removed from the allotment, and estimate the time and cost of management actions including livestock herding and improvement maintenance associated with the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work, and range improvement needs should be kept and returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvements. This report should be returned to the Cascade Ranger District no later than December 1, 2011.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN**

The Cascade Reservoir C&H Allotment will be managed to achieve the Desired Future Condition as described in the revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest. All permitted actions including grazing will comply with standards shown in the revised Forest Plan.

Utilization Standards from the revised Forest Plan are as follows:

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the grazing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.

1. Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use of hydric green line species.
2. Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures – 40 percent use.  
Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50 percent use.

## **INSPECTIONS**

Periodic inspections for compliance to the grazing permit and the annual operating instructions will be made by the Forest Service. Allotment inspections and unit examinations will be conducted during the grazing season to meet the utilization standards set forth in these instructions. Permittee participation in these activities is always encouraged.

These Annual Operating Instructions for the Cascade Reservoir C&H allotment are consistent with Forest Plan management direction. If you have questions or the need to alter this plan during the grazing season, notify the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist at 208-365-7012 or the Cascade District Ranger at 208-382-7400.

Signatures:

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District Ranger

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Date

I understand that these Annual Operating Instructions are part of my term grazing permit and I agree to manage my livestock grazing operations consistent with this direction and the terms and conditions stipulated in my term grazing permit.

Permittee(s) signature

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Date